

REMARKS

Claims 1-37 and 41-51 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 7, 14-17, 19-23, 29, 30 and 40-51 are amended, and claims 38-40 are canceled.

Submitted herewith are certified copies of the priority documents.

The Office Action objects to Fig. 13. Attached hereto is a Replacement Sheet submitting Fig. 13. Approval is requested.

The Office Action objects to the claims because of informalities. The claims have been amended to address these informalities. Regarding the recitation in claim 31 of “high speed”, it is submitted that this is a term of art and no amendment is needed. Withdrawal of the objections is requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 38-40 under 35 USC 112. Because these claims have been canceled, this rejection is moot, and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-7, 9-19, 23-28, 33-39 and 41-48 under 35 USC 102 over Hsieh (US Pat. 5,265,142). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 of the application recites “wherein said readout cells are arranged to readout said imaging cell output values at time intervals substantially corresponding to an object image point traversing half the distance or less of a detector region in the scanning direction during a scan. Method claim 33 has a corresponding method step. As discussed below, these features recited in claims 1 and 33 are not disclosed in Hsieh.

While Hsieh may teach rotating the imaging and source apparatus by a distance equal to one-half the pitch of the detectors, the rate at which readout occurs is wholly dependent on the time it takes to perform the readout. Indeed, a transmission profile is acquired, *then* the

apparatus are rotated (see col. 5, lines 5-13). Hsieh has no description of how long it takes to acquire the profile, and it is certainly not linked to the time it takes to traverse a detector region. Thus, the movement of the apparatus to further image points is driven by the time taken to readout data from the detectors.

Instead of stepping through each stage of the scan in dependence on the exposure time thereof, as described in Hsieh, the readout time in the claimed invention is driven by movement of the object image point, which is limited to traversing a distance of half the distance or less than the detector region. The imaging device employed in the claimed invention, and specifically the circuitry employed to interface with the detector cells, enables extremely high readout rates (as described in paragraphs 134 and 135), and importantly means that the time taken to readout the detector cells is not a limiting factor. The method employed by Hsieh is completely different: the data acquisition system performs a significant amount of processing in respect of signals received from each detector, and this is completed before the apparatus moves to the next scan (see col. 4, lines 20-29).

Accordingly, claims 1 or 33, al all claims dependent therefrom, are not are anticipated by Hsieh. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 8 and 40 over Hsieh. This rejection is moot regarding claim 40, which has been canceled. Claim 8 is not obvious over Hsieh, because Hsieh does not disclose the above-noted features of claim 1, from which claim 8 depends, nor does Hsieh render these features obvious. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

The Office action rejects claims 20-22, 31, 32 and 49-51 under 35 USC 103 over Hsieh in view of Bluzer (US Pat. 4,636,980), and rejects claims 29 and 30 under 35 USC 103 over Hsieh in view of Schick (US Pat. 6,134,298). These claims are not obvious over the cited references, because none of the cited references disclose or suggest the above-noted features of claims 1 and 33, from which each of the claims depend. Withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

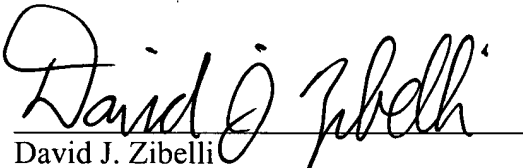
For at least the above reasons, it is submitted all claims are in condition for allowance.
Withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as presently written are allowable and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4200 to discuss any matter concerning this application.

The Office is authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 or credit of any overpayment to Kenyon & Kenyon Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,


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IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please substitute the attached replacement Fig. 13 for the fig. 13 filed with the application as required by the Examiner.